

# Lawrence Miller

## *Biography*

State Representative Lawrence G. Miller combines staunch advocacy for the towns he represents with a strong commitment to the economic, social and environmental well being of Fairfield County and elsewhere in Connecticut.

Representative Miller helped secure state funding and a variety of grants for Shelton and Stratford in 2004, 2003, 2002 and 2001, including:

- A \$1,887,947 grant to help pay for a \$4,596,900 renovation project at the Booth Hill School in Shelton, including a media center and upgrades to various offices.
- A \$60,000 grant to help pay for the restoration of Plumb Memorial Library in Shelton.
- A \$250,000 grant to help pay for improvements to the Stratford Little League baseball complex at Short Beach. The project included construction of a field control center facility containing food service and sanitary facilities and installation of site lighting.
- A \$60,000 grant to help pay for the restoration of the historic Perry Homestead in Stratford.
- A \$3,000,000 low-interest state loan to help Latex Foam Products, LLC rebuild its plant in Shelton. Its original facility in Ansonia was destroyed in a 2001 fire.
- A \$128,750 state grant to Stratford for the purchase of the 5.4 acre Chanda Property, which was used to expand Wigwam Park.
- An \$80 million grant to acquire and preserve 14,496 acres of the Kelda Group's watershed lands, including 940 acres in Shelton.
- Funding in the amount of \$2 million for road work on Huntington Avenue and \$1,050,000 for upgrades and improvements on Tavern Rock Road in Stratford.
- A \$1,000,000 grant for Shelton to assist in costs associated with Phase II improvements at the Shelton Enterprise and Commerce Park.

During the 2003 – 2004 and 2001 – 2002 legislative sessions, Representative Miller, cosponsored or supported several major laws, including:

- Public Act 04-200, which encourages water companies to sell land they own next to their superfluous reservoirs to buyers who will preserve the properties for passive recreation and open space rather than developing them for commercial or residential uses.
- P. A. 04-246, which helps ensure proposed new power lines are located away from schools, playgrounds, and other areas where children congregate to reduce the threat of exposure to harmful electromagnetic fields.

- P. A. 04-250, which is making our highways safer by allowing the Department of Motor Vehicles to immediately suspend the licenses of motorists arrested for driving under the influence if their records show prior involvement in a fatal accident or a DUI conviction within the past 10 years.
- P. A. 04-61, which is helping to combat money laundering and making terrorist financing more difficult by criminalizing unlicensed money transactions. The law makes engaging in such transactions without obtaining a money transmitter's license from the Department of Banking a class D Felony punishable by imprisonment for one to five years, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.
- P. A. 04-231, which is improving air quality and encouraging the wider use of fuel-efficient cars. The law extended the sales tax exemption for purchases of new clean and alternative fuel motor vehicles to July 1, 2008 to continue providing consumers with an incentive to buy hybrid automobiles.
- P. A. 04-252, which requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of a regional effort to address global climate change. The Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change was directed to develop plans to help achieve those goals.
- P. A. 04-169, which qualified more veterans for admission to the state Veterans' Home and Hospital. The act also increased the number of veterans eligible for burial in the state veterans' cemetery. It did so by eliminating war service as a criterion for admission or burial, enabling any veteran honorably discharged from active service in the U. S. Armed Forces to qualify.
- P. A. 04-101, which adjusted the ConnPACE program to align it with the federal prescription drug discount program. The law also directed the Department of Social Services to evaluate the feasibility, health, safety and cost-effectiveness of re-importing prescription drugs from Canada under the ConnPACE Program and to evaluate the feasibility of waiving the co-payment.
- P. A. 04-174, which allowed Connecticut residents to obtain health savings accounts. Health savings accounts are tax-exempt savings accounts that enable persons who open them to save money for future medical expenses.
- P. A. 03-29, which designated May 25<sup>th</sup> as Aviation Pioneer Day to honor Igor I. Sikorsky, founder of Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation of Stratford. Mr. Sikorsky had a passion for aircraft. He was a family man, a religious man and a man of integrity. He is recognized throughout the world as one of the greatest aviation pioneers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He made Stratford the aviation capitol of the world.
- P. A. 03-148, which extended for an additional year a moratorium on state agency consideration or final action on new underwater electric power lines, gas pipelines or telecommunications lines that would cross Long Island Sound. The original moratorium was put in place because of concerns about potential harm a proposed underwater power line might pose to the Sound; its aquatic life; and the state's Sound-based fishing industry.
- P. A. 03-72 which has helped improve air quality in Connecticut by requiring coal-burning electric power plants to reduce their mercury emissions.

- P. A. 03-78, which gave Connecticut residents the option of choosing Medical Savings Accounts instead of conventional health insurance plans. Individuals and families who open MSAs can make annual tax-deductible contributions to their accounts. Interest earnings are tax-free, as are funds withdrawn to pay for medical expenses. MSAs can only be opened in conjunction with the purchase of a high-deductible health insurance plan.
- P. A. 03-267, which gave elderly persons more protection from abuse, neglect or exploitation by establishing penalties for repeated acts or omissions that result in injuries to vulnerable seniors. The law makes willfully failing to report abuse of an elderly person a crime rather than a (less serious) violation.
- P. A. 03-77, which makes it easier for early retirees to continue their group health insurance from age 62 to 65, until they are eligible for Medicare.
- P. A. 03-220, which is helping improve air quality in public schools and reducing the incidence of respiratory ailments such as asthma among students, teachers and staff. A key feature of the law requires school districts to provide maintenance personnel with the training they need to properly service their schools' heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.
- P. A. 03-156, which increased the penalties for identity theft, helped restore the credit-worthiness of victims and established safeguards that make it more difficult for criminals to obtain personal identification information.
- P.A. 03-205, which helped improve the security of single-family homes by prohibiting the disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of building plans for such dwellings to unauthorized persons.
- P. A. 03-265, which improved highway safety by authorizing courts to order the installation of ignition interlock devices on motor vehicles operated by persons convicted of certain alcohol-related motor vehicle offenses and requiring blood or breath tests to be conducted on drivers who survive accidents that result in fatalities or serious injuries. The law is aimed at habitual and repeat drunk driving offenders - the individuals who are most likely to be involved in such accidents.
- P. A. 03-242, which has improved the state's effectiveness in identifying criminal offenders and helped exonerate people wrongly accused of crimes by requiring DNA testing of anyone convicted of a felony and including their genetic profiles in the state's data bank.
- P. A. 02-95, which responded to an issue of special concern to southwest Connecticut's shoreline communities. The act established moratoriums on final state approval of proposals for energy and telecommunications lines under the Long Island Sound seabed between Connecticut and Long Island. The law, which was enacted in response to widespread concern about Trans Energie U.S. - Cross Sound Cable's proposal to install an underwater electric power transmission line on the Long Island Sound seabed between New Haven and Long Island, imposed a one-year moratorium on the installation of new underwater cables on the Long Island Sound seabed between Connecticut and Long Island (as well as major overland

electrical transmission line projects), giving the state the time it needs to conduct thorough studies of the environmental effects of such projects.

- P. A. 02-87, which reformed the state's Affordable Housing Act to make it more difficult for developers to use the law to override local zoning regulations and build such projects in inappropriate areas. The act enables the types of housing units that fall within the state's definition of affordable housing that are used in determining the total number of affordable units located within a town to be expanded. Under current law, if affordable housing units do not constitute 10 percent or more of a town's housing stock and a developer proposes an affordable housing complex, local zoning regulations can be set aside to allow the project to proceed. If a local zoning commission rejects the proposal and the developer appeals, the burden of proof is on the town to show why the developer should not be allowed to go ahead with the project. Under the act, people who own mobile homes or have accessory apartments attached to their houses can deed restrict them as affordable, allowing them to be counted toward a town's total affordable housing stock - making it easier for towns to achieve the 10 percent figure that exempts them from the affordable housing appeals procedure when they reject affordable housing projects.
- P. A. 02-97, which established terrorism as a crime in Connecticut. It also created the crimes of contaminating a public water or food supply and damaging public transportation property for terrorist purposes and defined fabricating weapons involving chemicals, disease organisms or radiation as terrorist crimes.
- P. A. 02-119, which requires all school boards to develop policies addressing bullying and ensuring time is made available during each school day for students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Individuals are not required to recite the pledge under the act.
- P. A. 02-56, which prohibits school bus drivers from idling bus engines for more than three minutes when the bus is stopped. Student exposure to harmful school bus exhaust fumes is being significantly reduced as a result of the law.
- P. A. 02-137, which requires that military discharge documents filed by veterans with public agencies be kept separate from their other records and remain confidential for 75 years. The act also allows municipalities to increase their optional property tax assessment reduction for low-income wartime veterans and their surviving spouses.
- P. A. 02-126, which exempted surviving spouses and children of Connecticut residents killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks from having to pay tuition at state institutions of higher education and designated September 11<sup>th</sup> as "Remembrance Day" to memorialize those killed in the attacks.
- P. A. 01-191, which adds veterans who served in time of war and received service-connected traumatic brain injuries to the list of individuals eligible to register their vehicles without paying a fee. TBI-afflicted veterans are eligible for free special license plates and identification cards under the law.

Representative Miller was first elected to the state House of Representatives in 1991 and has been re-elected ever since then.

Recognizing Representative Miller's record of achievement as the House Ranking Member (Republican Leader) on the General Assembly's Select Committee on Housing during his 2001-02 term, House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward, R-Northford, reappointed him to the position for the 2003 – 2004 and 2005 - 2006 legislative sessions. He also serves on the General Assembly's Energy & Technology and Planning & Development committees. He is a former member of the Transportation and Commerce committees.

Representative Miller is the former president of Milo Corp. of Stratford.

He served on the Stratford Town Council from 1977 to 1985. He was a member of the Stratford Planning and Zoning Commission from 1985 to 1989. He was a member and former chairman of the Zoning Commission from 1989 to 1993.

Representative Miller is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Stratford Chamber of Commerce, a former United Way volunteer, a former chairman of the Bridgeport YMCA Board of Managers and formerly was active with the Stratford YMCA. He is a member of Catholic Sokols and the Knights of Columbus. Representative Miller is a former volunteer with the Stratford Red Cross.

Representative Miller is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He is also a graduate of Warren Harding High School in Bridgeport.

Representative Miller and his wife Mildred have three children, John Miller, Leslie Miller and Andrea Bushko.